

Opening of London Travel Center

October 10, 1962 - 11:30

There is a ~~s~~ of atavism about travel. Our remote ancestors were constantly on the me ~~u~~ usually seeking something to eat.

In modern times, the motives for displacement are different. My own countrymen are especially nomadic. They hope to find the grass greener in distant pastures. We are attempting to stimulate others to emulate this wandering habit in increas'ng degree, the objective being to attract pounds, shillings and pence into the American Treasury.

In return, we believe the tourist will be well rewarded by novel sights, uncommon customs, and a still frontier appreciation, (or benevolent curiosity, over inquisitive foreigners. Foreigners, when they voyage outside the great cities, if not shot, are usually hospitably entertained.

I shall not attempt to give advice, or offer enticement to any of you, as prospective customers of this ambitious center.

But perhaps I might cull from English literature a few observations on travel apposite to our meeting today.

Sir Francis Bacon, who, through indiscretions of a political nature, lost his head, was sound on this subject. He recommended that a voyager abroad should "sequester himself from the company of his countrymen, and diet in such places where there is good company of the nation where he travelleth." He also remarked, in a famous passage, that when a traveller returns home he should not let it appear that "he hath changed his country manners for those of foreign parts; but only prick in some flowers of that he hath learned abroad into the customs of his own country."

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He recommended that a voyager
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Johnson management is contemplating the possibility of establishing its chief foreign office for purposes of finance, computer work, and certain other activities, in England. They have more or less concluded, and I agree, that London would be likely to become the most important of the financial centers in the Common Market countries.

Samuel Nordlinger, our new representative from AEC, called on me this afternoon.

I also saw Hugh Cullman, son of Howard Cullman, [REDACTED] here in connection with Philip Morris business. He told me that both British and German tobacco machinery manufacturing firms were far ahead in technical proficiency and equipment of their counterpart in America, the American Machinery & Foundry Company. Apparently, the tremendous expansion of AMF led it to neglect the modernization of its manufacturing facilities in this field.

Jack McCloy spent some time informing me of the results of his discussions with British petroleum experts about Soviet oil and related matters. It was a lucid exposition of a complicated matter. The action suggested would involve the Department of Justice relaxing its restrictions on allowing representatives of American petroleum companies to meet and frankly examine ^{such} ~~the~~ problems. In this respect at least, our anti-trust laws are too antiquated to permit a solution of some pressing and dangerous political and financial ~~✓~~ [REDACTED] questions.

Tonight, we dined at the Spanish Embassy. This is the annual Columbus Day feast given by the Spanish for the Latin American diplomats.

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